

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/092187 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C07F 9/09,  
9/10, 9/12, A61K 31/661, A61P 23/00

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2004/000491

(22) International Filing Date: 14 April 2004 (14.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2003901815 15 April 2003 (15.04.2003) AU

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VITAL  
HEALTH SCIENCES PTY LTD [AU/AU]; Level 2, 90  
William Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WEST, Simon,  
Michael [AU/AU]; 3 Verdon Street, Williamstown, VIC  
3016 (AU). KANNAR, David [AU/AU]; 182 Belgrave  
Hallam Road, Belgrave South, VIC 3160 (AU).

(74) Agent: MALLESONS, Stephen, Jaques: Level 28 Ri-  
alto, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 (AU).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-  
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,  
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,  
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,  
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PHOSPHATE DERIVATIVES

(57) Abstract: According to the invention, there is provided a phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the reaction product of the following steps: (d) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal; (e) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and (f) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound.

WO 2004/092187 A1

## Phosphate Derivatives

### Field of the invention

The invention relates to a phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound and a method for producing that derivative.

### 5 Background of the invention

In this specification, where a document, act or item of knowledge is referred to or discussed, this reference or discussion is not an admission that the document, act or item of knowledge or any combination thereof was at the priority date part of common general knowledge; or known to be relevant to an attempt to solve any problem with which this specification is concerned.

10 Whilst the following discussion relates to the potential use of the phosphate derivative of the invention in the delivery of active compounds in anaesthetics, it will be understood that the invention may also have application to other compounds containing phenolic hydroxyl groups where improved water solubility, rapid activity or improved delivery is desired, for example, adrenaline (CAS 51-43-4 & 99-45-6) and analgesics (CAS 36322-90-4):

15 An ideal anaesthetic drug would induce anesthesia smoothly and quickly, then permit rapid patient recovery upon cessation. The drug would also be safe to use and free of side effects, but as no single agent possesses all these attributes, combinations of drugs are often used in modern practice.

Propofol is an extremely important intravenous induction agent as it produces anesthesia at a  
20 rate similar to intravenous barbiturates but recovery is more rapid. Patients report feeling better in the immediate postoperative period and are able to ambulate sooner in comparison to other agents. Postoperative vomiting and nausea is uncommon as propofol is reported to have anti-emetic actions. For these reasons propofol is a popular drug, especially in day surgery where it is used both as an induction and maintenance anesthetic.

25 An important disadvantage of propofol arises from its lipid solubility, requiring the compound to be delivered in other more soluble lipidic carriers that improve dissolution such as medium chain length triglyceride (Cremophor), oil in water emulsion (Intralipid), polyoxyl 35 castor oil (hydrogenated castor oil) or other lipidic emulsion systems.

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported with propofol. These include hypotension,  
30 flushing and bronchospasm, that are largely thought to be due to the lipid vehicle Cremaphor.

A potential alternative approach is to use propofol phosphate which is a water soluble derivative of propofol. Intravenous administration of propofol phosphate would be expected to convert to the parent compound via the action of plasma and tissue phosphatases such as alkaline phosphatase. *In vitro* use of propofol phosphate does not however induce anesthesia  
5 and does not release the parent drug because the phosphate group is slow to hydrolyse.

Therefore, there is still a need for further derivatives of phenolic hydroxy compounds which might be used to enhance delivery of certain active compounds.

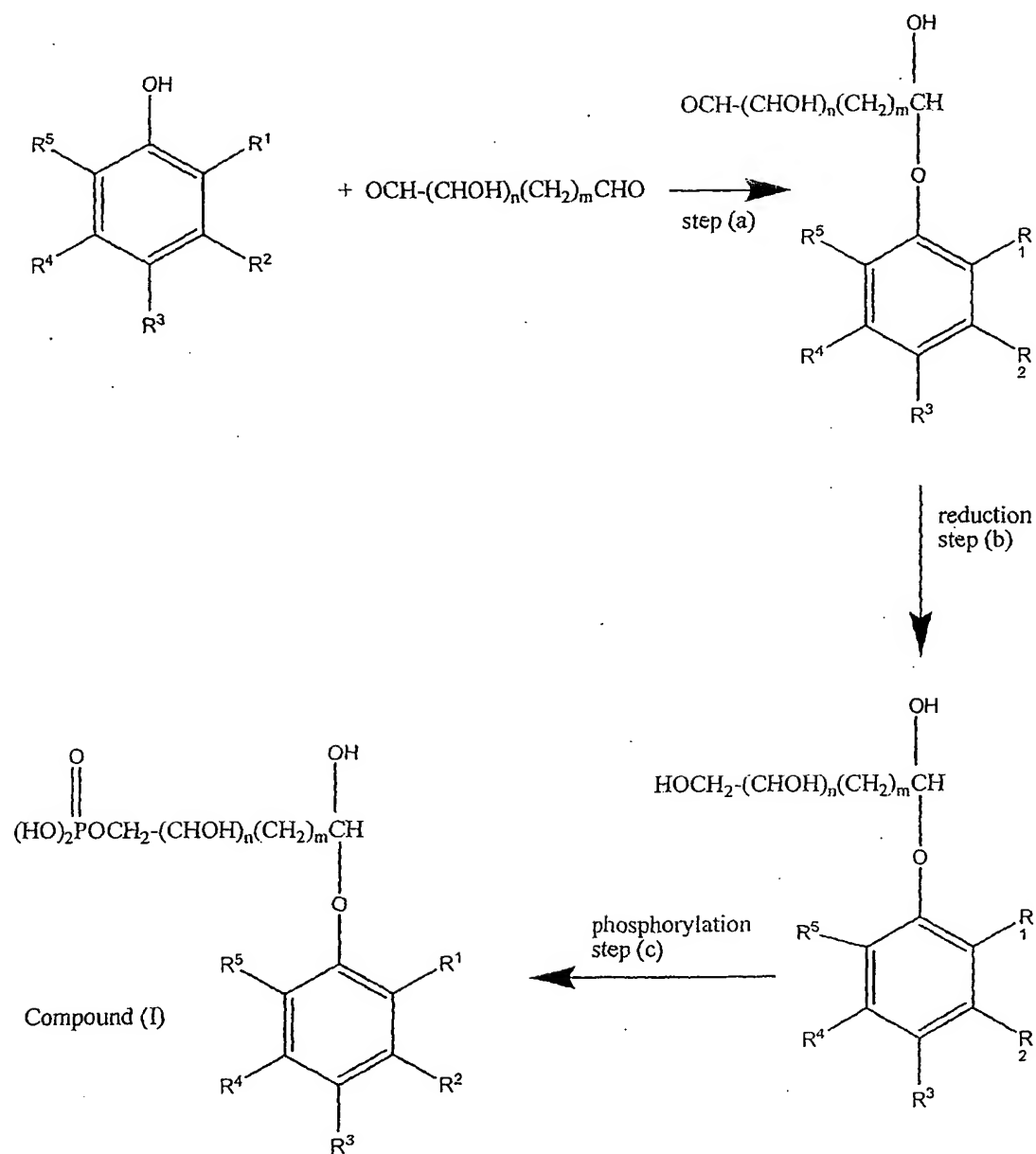
#### Summary of the invention

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a phosphate derivative of a  
10 phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the reaction product of the following steps:

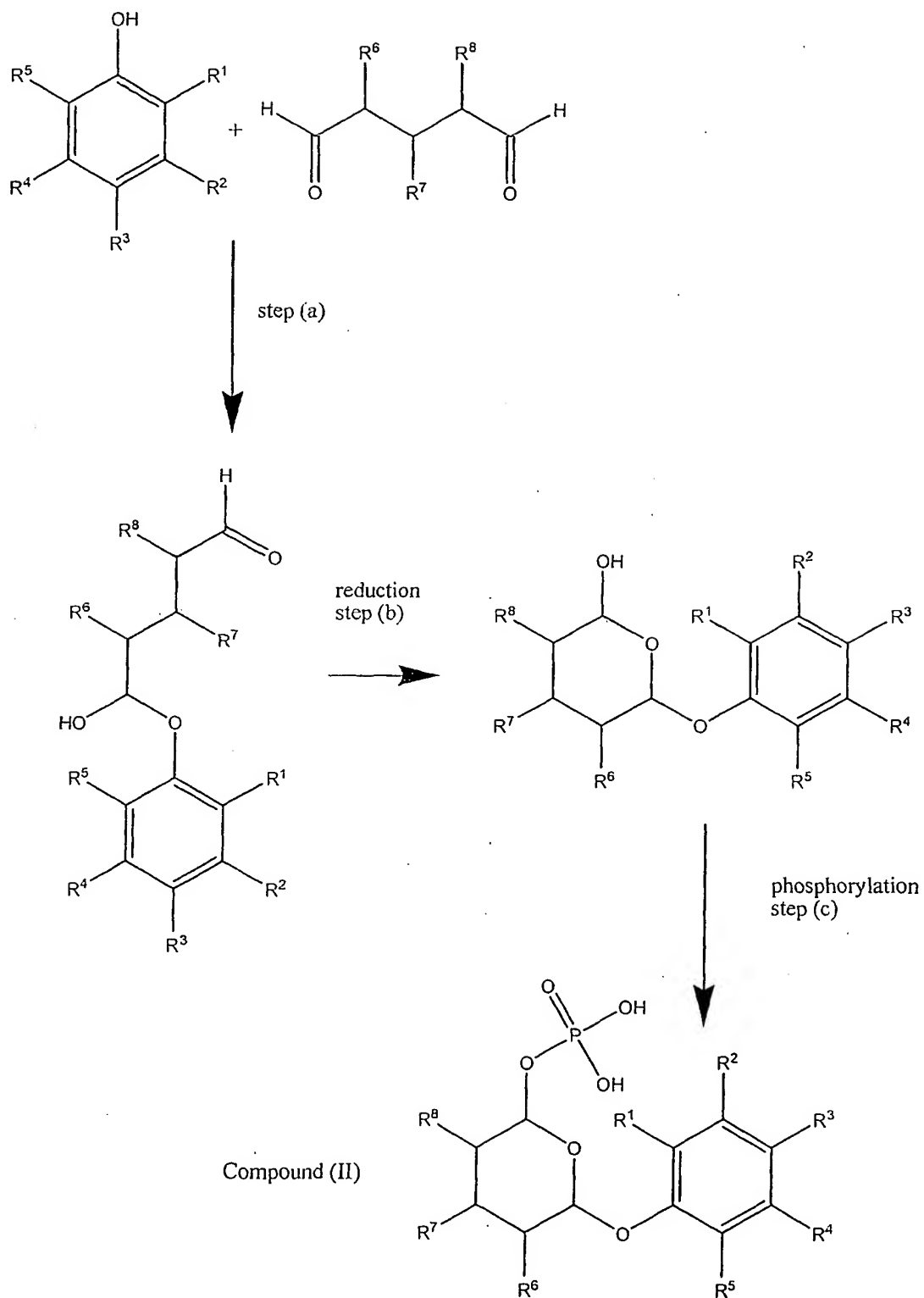
- (a) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
- (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
- 15 (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b).

The following Reaction Schemes 1 and 2 illustrate the three reaction steps according to the first aspect of the invention. In both of the schemes,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may each independently be chosen from H or an alkyl group. In Reaction Scheme 1, n and m are independently in the range of 0 to 8. In Reaction Scheme 2,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  can each  
20 independently be H or OH.

## Reaction Scheme 1



## Reaction Scheme 2



In one preferred embodiment, the product of step (c) is further reacted with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for preparing a  
5 phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the following steps:

- (a) reacting a phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
- (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
- 10 (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b).

In one preferred embodiment, the method further comprises step (d) reacting the product of step (c) with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.

15 According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for improving the bioavailability of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the following steps:

- (a) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
- (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
- 20 (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound.

Where used herein the term "phosphate derivatives" refers to compounds covalently bound by means of an oxygen to the phosphorus atom of a phosphate group. The phosphate derivative  
25 may exist in the form of a free phosphate acid, a salt thereof, a di-phosphate ester thereby including two phenolic hydroxy compound molecules, a mixed ester including one phenolic hydroxy compound and another phenolic hydroxy compound, and a phosphatidyl compound wherein the free phosphate oxygen forms a bond with an alkyl or substituted alkyl group.

Suitable complexing agents for use in the invention may be selected surfactants chosen from  
30 classes including from alkyl amino/amido betaines, sultaines, phosphobetaines, phosphitaines,

imidazolium and straight chain mono and dicarboxy ampholytes, quaternary ammonium salts, and cationic alkoxylated mono and di-fatty amines; and amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids. Preferred complexing agents are N-lauryl imino di-propionate and arginine.

- 5 Suitable amino acids having nitrogen functional groups for use in the invention include glycine, arginine, lysine and histidine. Proteins rich in these amino acids may also be used as complexing agents, for example, casein. These complexing agents are used when the composition needs to be delivered by other routes of administration including but not limited to inhalation, oral ingestion, dermal application, eye drops or suppositories.
- 10 The amphoteric surfactants may be ampholytic surfactants, that is, they exhibit a pronounced isoelectric point within a specific pH range; or zwitterionic surfactants, that is, they are cationic over the entire pH range and do not usually exhibit a pronounced isoelectric point. Examples of these amphoteric surfactants are tertiary substituted amines, such as those according to the following formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^9$  is chosen from the group comprising straight or branched chain mixed alkyl radicals from C6 to C22 and carbonyl derivatives thereof.

- $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  are independently chosen from the group comprising H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOX}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{X}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OPO}_3\text{X}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOX}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOX}$ ,  
 20  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{X}$  or  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OPO}_3\text{X}$  and X is H, Na, K or alkanolamine provided that  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  are not both H.

In addition, when  $\text{R}^9$  is RCO then  $\text{R}^{10}$  may be  $\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  may be  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH})\text{H}_2\text{COPO}_3$  or  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  together may be  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{COO}-$ .

- Commercial examples are DERIPHAT sold by Henkel/Cognis, DEHYTON sold by  
 25 Henkel/Cognis, TEGOBETAINE sold by Goldschmidt and MIRANOL sold by Rhone Poulenc.

Cationic surfactants, such as quaternary ammonium compounds, will also form complexes with phosphorylated derivatives of drug hydroxy compounds such as tocopheryl phosphates. Examples of cationic surfactants include the following:



- (b)  $[R_2N^+CH_3]_2 SO_4^{2-}$
- (c)  $[RCON(CH_3)CH_2CH_2CH_2N^+(CH_3)_2C_2H_4OH]_2 SO_4^{2-}$
- (d) Ethomeens:  $RN[(CH_2CH_2O)_x CH_2OH][(CH_2CH_2O)_y CH_2OH]$  wherein x and y are independently integers from 1 to 50.

5 wherein R is C8 to C22 straight or branched chain alkyl groups or mixed alkyl groups.

Silicone surfactants including hydrophilic and hydrophobic functionality may also be used, for example, dimethicone PG betaine, amodimethicone or trimethylsilylamodimethicone. For example, ABILE 9950 from Goldschmidt Chemical Co. The hydrophobe can be a C6 to C22 straight -or branched alkyl or mixed alkyl including fluoroalkyl, fluorosilicone and or mixtures thereof. The hydrophilic portion can be an alkali metal, alkaline earth or alkanolamine salts of carboxy alkyl groups or sulfoxy alkyl groups, that is sultaines, phosphitaines or phosphobetaines or mixtures thereof.

Typically, the complex of the phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound is made by (1) direct neutralization of the free phosphoric acid ester of the phenolic hydroxy compound with the complexing agents or (2) in-situ blending of mixed sodium salts of the phosphate derivatives of the phenolic hydroxy compound with the complexing agents.

Propofol is an example of a phenolic hydroxy compound to which the invention may have application. Forms of propofol which may be used in this invention include:

- ♦ 2,6-diisopropylphenol (CAS 2078-54-8)
- 20 ♦ Propofol phosphate or Phenol, 2,6-bis(1-methylethyl)-, dihydrogen phosphate (9CI) (CAS 18351-38-7)
- ♦ Phenol, 2,6-bis(1-methylethyl)-, dihydrogen phosphate, disodium salt (9CI) (CAS 250345-80-3)

Adrenaline and analgesics are examples of other phenolic hydroxy compounds which may be used in the invention.

### Examples

The invention will now be further explained and illustrated by reference to the following non-limiting examples.



**Example 1 - preparation of phosphate derivative of propofol**

17.8g (0.1M) of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (propofol) was placed in a 100 ml flask with a good agitator. 4.2 g of sodium hydrogen carbonate and 3.4g of sodium carbonate were dissolved in 23.2 g of 50% aqueous gluteraldehyde. This solution was added to the 2,6-diisopropylphenol with vigorous stirring over a one hour period. Then stirring continued for one hour. The water was evaporated to give the dry hemiacetal derivative of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (A). A was dissolved in 50 ml of toluene, then 7.8 g of  $P_4O_{10}$  was added and the mixture stirred for one hour with the temperature maintained in the range 40 to 60°C. 50 ml of water was carefully added and the mixture stirred for thirty minutes to hydrolyse any pyrophosphates. The toluene phase was separated using a separating funnel and dried to produce 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-tetrahydropyran-6-yl, dihydrogen phosphate (I).

**Example 2- preparation of phosphate derivative of propofol**

17.8g (0.1M) of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (propofol) was placed in a 100 ml flask with a good agitator. 4.2 g of sodium hydrogen carbonate and 3.4g of sodium carbonate were dissolved in 32.6 g of 50% aqueous trihydroxy pentandial. This solution was added to the 2,6-diisopropylphenol with vigorous stirring over a one hour period. Then stirring continued for one hour. The water was evaporated to give the dry hemiacetal derivative of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (B). B was dissolved in 50 ml of toluene, then 7.8 g of  $P_4O_{10}$  was added and the mixture stirred for one hour, maintaining the temperature in the range 40 to 60°C. 50 ml of water was carefully added and the mixture stirred for thirty minutes to hydrolyse any pyrophosphates. The toluene phase was separated using a separating funnel and dried to produce 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-3,4,5-trihydroxy tetrahydropyran-6-yl, dihydrogen phosphate (II).

**Example 3- preparation of phosphate derivative of propofol**

17.8g (0.1M) of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (propofol) was placed in a 100 ml flask with a good agitator. 4.2 g of sodium hydrogen carbonate and 3.4g of sodium carbonate were dissolved in 12.8 g of 50% aqueous glyoxyal. This solution was added to the 2,6-diisopropylphenol with vigorous stirring over a one hour period. Then stirring continued for one hour. 3.8 g of sodium borohydride was added and the mixture stirred for one hour. The water was evaporated to give the dry hemiacetal derivative of 2,6-diisopropylphenol (C). C was dissolved in 50 ml of toluene, then 7.8 g of  $P_4O_{10}$  was added and the mixture stirred for one hour, maintaining the temperature in the range 40 to 60°C. 25 ml of water was carefully added and the mixture stirred for thirty minutes to hydrolyse any pyrophosphates. The toluene phase

was separated using a separating funnel and dried to produce 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-2-hydroxy ethylphosphate (III) .

**Example 4 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

373 g (1 M) of disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate was dissolved in 2000 ml of deionized  
5 water and warmed to 50-60°C to form a clear solution of pH 11-12. 358 g (1 M) of product I  
from Example 1 was added with good agitation to form the disodium lauryl-imino-  
dipropionate- 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy) tetrahydropyran-6-yl dihydrogen phosphate complex  
(IV) at a pH of 8-9 as an aqueous solution. The pH may be adjusted by adding appropriate  
amounts of either component.

10 **Example 5 preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

174 grams of arginine was dissolved in 1000ml of deionized water. 406 g of product II from  
Example 2 was added to this solution with good agitation to yield the arginine 2-(2,6-  
diisopropylphenoxy)-3,4,5-trihydroxy tetrahydropyran-6-yl dihydrogen phosphate complex  
(V) as an aqueous solution with final pH of 6.5-7.5.

15 **Example 6 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

17 g (0.1M) arginine was dissolved into 100ml of deionized water. 31.8 g (0.1M) of product  
III from Example 3 was added to this solution with good agitation to form an arginine 2-(2,6-  
diisopropylphenoxy)-2-hydroxy ethylphosphate complex (VI) as an aqueous complex with  
final pH of 6.5-7.5.

20 **Example 7 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

373 g (1 M) of disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate was dissolved in 200 ml of deionized water  
and warmed to 50-60°C to form a clear solution of pH 11-12. 358 g (1 M) of product I from  
Example 1 was added with good agitation to form the disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate 2-  
(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy) tetrahydropyran-6-yl dihydrogen phosphate complex (VII) at a pH of  
25 8-9 as an aqueous solution. The pH may be adjusted by adding appropriate amounts of either  
component. The solution was then freeze dried for 24 hours to yield the complex as a dry  
powder.

**Example 8 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

174 grams of arginine was dissolved in 200 ml of deionized water. 406 g of product II from  
30 Example 2 was added to this solution with good agitation to yield the 2-(2,6-

diisopropylphenoxy)-3,4,5-trihydroxytetrahydropyran-6-yl dihydrogen phosphate arginine complex (VIII) with final pH of 6.5-7.5. The solution was then freeze dried for 24 hours to yield the complex as a dry powder.

**Example 9 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

- 5 17 g (0.1M) arginine was dissolved into 20ml of deionized water. 31.8 g (0.1M) of product III from Example 3 was added with good agitation to form an arginine 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-2-hydroxy ethylphosphate complex (IX) as an aqueous complex with final pH of 6.5-7.5. The solution was then freeze dried for 24 hours to yield the complex as a dry powder.

10 **Example 10 - preparation of complex of phosphate derivative of propofol**

- 174 grams of arginine was dissolved in 200 ml of deionized water. 358 g of product I from Example 1 was added to this solution with good agitation to yield the 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-tetrahydropyran-6-yl dihydrogen phosphate arginine complex (X) with final pH of 6.5-7.5. 0.3M 2,6-di-isopropylphenol was added and fully emulsified with a high  
15 sheer agitator. The solution was then freeze dried for 24 hours to yield a product being a mixture of the complex and free 2,6-diisopropylphenol that when used intravenously acted as an anaesthetic. The free 2,6-diisopropylphenol was available for immediate anaesthetic action in an emulsified state and the complex for slower delivery of the 2,6-diisopropylphenol after hydrolysis.

- 20 The word 'comprising' and forms of the word 'comprising' as used in this description and in the claims does not limit the invention claimed to exclude any variants or additions.

Modifications and improvements to the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Such modifications and improvements are intended to be within the scope of this invention.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the reaction product of the following steps:
  - (a) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
  - (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
  - (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound.
2. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 1 having the structure of Compound (I) wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may each independently be chosen from H or an alkyl group and n and m are independently in the range of 0 to 8.
3. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 1 having the structure of Compound (II) wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may each independently be chosen from H or an alkyl group and  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  can each independently be H or OH
4. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 1 wherein the product of step (c) has been reacted with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.
5. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 1 wherein the phenolic hydroxy compound is propofol or a derivative of propofol.
6. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 5 wherein the phosphate derivative of propofol has been reacted with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.
7. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 6 wherein the complexing agent is arginine.

8. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 6 wherein the complexing agent is disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate.
9. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to claim 1 wherein the alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde is selected from the group consisting of gluteraldehyde, trihydroxy pentandial, glyoxyal and mixtures thereof.
10. The phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound of claim 1 wherein the phenolic hydroxy compound is selected from adrenaline, analgesics and mixtures thereof.
- 10 11. A method for preparing a phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the steps of:
  - (a) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
  - (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
  - (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound.
12. The method according to claim 11 further comprising step (d) reacting the product of step (c) with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.
13. The method according to claim 11 wherein the phenolic hydroxy compound is propofol or a derivative of propofol.
14. The method according to claim 13 comprising the further step of reacting the phosphate derivative of propofol with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.
15. The method according to claim 14 wherein the complexing agent is arginine.
16. The method according to claim 14 wherein the complexing agent is disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate.

17. The method according to claim 11 wherein the alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde is selected from the group consisting of gluteraldehyde, trihydroxy pentandial, glyoxal and mixtures thereof.
18. A phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol comprising the reaction product of the following steps:
- 5 (a) reacting propofol or a derivative of propofol with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
- (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
- 10 (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol.
19. The phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol according to claim 18 wherein the phosphate derivative from step (c) has been reacted with a complexing agent selected from the group comprising amphoteric surfactants, cationic surfactants, amino acids having nitrogen functional groups and proteins rich in these amino acids.
- 15 20. The phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol according to claim 19 wherein the complexing agent is arginine.
21. The phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol according to claim 19 wherein the complexing agent is disodium lauryl-imino-dipropionate.
- 20 22. The phosphate derivative of propofol or a derivative of propofol according to claim 18 wherein the alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde is selected from the group consisting of gluteraldehyde, trihydroxy pentandial, glyoxal and mixtures thereof.
23. A phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to any one of
- 25 claims 1 to 8 when used as a prodrug.
24. A phosphate derivative of a phenolic hydroxy compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 when used as an anaesthetic.

25. A method for improving the bioavailability of a phenolic hydroxy compound comprising the following steps:
- (a) reacting the phenolic hydroxy compound with an alkyl  $\alpha:\omega$  dialdehyde or a sugar-like polyhydroxy dialdehyde to form a hemiacetal;
  - 5 (b) reducing the terminal aldehyde group on the product from step (a) to a hydroxyl group; and
  - (c) phosphorylating the hydroxyl group formed in step (b) to produce a phosphate derivative of the phenolic hydroxy compound.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000491

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> : C07F 9/09, 9/10, 9/12; A61K 31/661; A61P 23/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) See electronic databases consulted below Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched See electronic databases consulted below Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) CA, WPIDS. Keyword search: ?dialdehyde, ?dial, phosh?, propofol, diprivan, phenol?		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2002/013810 A1, 21 February 2002 (VYREX CORPORATION) See page 6 line 1 - page 9 line 10	1-25
A	WO 2000/008033 A1, 17 February 2000 (THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS) See example 1	1-25
A	WO 1999/058555 A2, 18 November 1999 (VYREX CORPORATION) See page 7 line 25 - page 13 line 10; page 21 lines 1-21	1-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 8 June 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 JUN 2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer SWARUP CHATTERJEE Telephone No : (02) 6283 2259



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000491

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	2002/013810	CA	2419047	EP	1318798	US	6362234
WO	2000/08033	AU	53394/99	BR	9912853	CA	2339834
		CZ	20010479	EP	1102776	HU	0200317
		NO	20010659	NZ	509795	PL	347211
		US	6204257	US	2001025035	US	2003176324
		ZA	200101039				
WO	1999/058555	AU	37894/99	CA	2331371	EP	1075489
		US	6254853				
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.							
END OF ANNEX							